

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9179

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, GW, WB, MPOL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY (NAA) TOUR
VISIT TO BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 067996; (B) BONN 04721 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ALLIED REPS HAVE REPORTED IN BONN GROUP THEIR
AUTHORITIES' AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO VISIT TO BERLIN OF
NAA TOUR. FRENCH AND UK ARE RELUCTANT TO HAVE SENAT
ISSUE INVITATION. FRENCH ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN
PROGRAM FOR GROUP IF US OR UK ISSUE INVITATION ON BEHALF
OF AK WHILE EITHER IN CHAIR. END SUMMARY'

1. AT APRIL 3 BONN GROUP MEETING, SUBJECT VISIT TO
BERLIN WAS AGAIN DISCUSSED. UK REP (CULLIMORE) SAID HIS
EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS THAT, GIVEN FACT NAA
NOT PART OF NATO MILITARY ORGANIZATION, BRITISH HAVE NO
OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED VISIT, PROVIDED INVITATION COMES
FROM ALLIED COBS AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE TOUR ARE
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PLAYED DOWN. CONCERNING LAST POINT, CULLIMORE EXPRESSED

THOUGHT THAT TOUR GROUP COULD PERHAPS BE GIVEN CAUTIONARY BRIEFING. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SAID FRENCH HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO VISIT ON THE TWO CONDITIONS THAT ANY INVITATION NOT COME FROM THE FRENCH COB AND THAT THE TOUR BE RENAMED. US REP INFORMED OTHERS THAT US SUPPORTED VISIT AND MADE PRESENTATION PER REFTTEL A, INDICATING PREFERENCE THAT SENAT ISSUE INVITATION AND THAT WORD "MILITARY" BE DROPPED FROM TOUR TITLE.

2. FRENCH AND UK REPS SAW NO LEGAL REASON WHY SENAT COULD NOT INVITE TOUR, BUT STATED PREFERENCE FOR INVITATION TO COME FROM ALLIES IN ORDER TO MAKE IT EASIER TO RESPOND TO SOVIETS SHOULD THEY COMPLAIN. BOISSIEU STRESSED NEED TO AVOID GIVING CERTAIN PERSONS IN BERLIN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT VISIT AS A POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION BY WHAT SOME WOULD PERCEIVE, ALBEIT INCORRECTLY, AS A "NATO ORGAN."

3. IN RESPONSE TO US AND UK QUERIES, BOISSIEU CLARIFIED FRENCH POSITION AND SAID FRENCH HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH EITHER UKCOB OR USCOB MAKING INVITATION WHEN IN CHAIR (APRIL AND MAY RESPECTIVELY) ON BEHALF OF UK AND FRENCH WILL PARTICIPATE IN WHATEVER PROGRAM IS DEVELOPED FOR NAA GROUP. US AND UK REPS AGREED TO PROPOSE THIS COURSE OF ACTION INCLUDING CONDITION THAT WHOEVER SENDS INVITATION (US OR UK) WOULD ASSUME PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRAM, SINCE FRENCH WILL BE IN CHAIR WHEN GROUP COMES IN JUNE.

4. ALLIED REPS AGREED TO ASK RESPECTIVE MISSIONS WHAT KIND OF PROGRAM AND BRIEFINGS NAA GROUP COULD APPROPRIATELY BE OFFERED CONSISTENT WITH NEED TO PLAY DOWN MILITARY CONTENT. REPS ALSO FELT THAT SENAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM, BUT THAT, UNTIL FINAL DECISION MADE, THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCUSSION WITH SENAT. FRG REP (KASTRUP) AGREED TO FIND OUT MEMBERSHIP OF NAA GROUP AND EXPLORE POSSIBILITY TO CHANGE TITLE OF TOUR.

5. REGARDING TIMING OF VISIT, KASTRUP CLARIFIED DATES, REPORTING THAT NAA GROUP WOULD BE IN FRG AND BERLIN
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JUNE 20-23. TWO DAYS OF THIS PERIOD WOULD BE SPENT IN BERLIN, ONE OF WHICH WOULD BE FREE DAY FOR NAA GROUP MEMBERS (COMMENT: WE IMAGINE SOME OF THE GROUP MEMBERS WILL BE INTERESTED IN VISITING EAST BERLIN).

6. REQUEST USBER'S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE PROGRAM AND DEPT'S GUIDANCE RE SCENARIO OUTLINED PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE.
HILLENBRAND

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